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Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /077 W
---------- 020609
R 270638Z SEP 75
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2390
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0997

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IZ, FR
SUBJ: SADDAM HUSSEIN IN FRANCE

REF: A. BAGHDAD 415, PARA 2,3; B. BAGHDAD 928; C. BAGHDAD 957

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING SECURITY PROCEDURES USINT HAS ALREADY SHREDDED OUR COPY OF MOST RECENT AMEMB PARIS WRAPUP ON SADDAM HUSSEIN VISIT TO FRANCE (POSSIBLY PARIS 23731). BUT USINT BELIEVES MESSAGE MADE POINT WELL AND NATIONAL PRESTIGE AND SUCCESS OF DELIBERATELY PERSONALIZED APPROACH GOF MADE TO SADDAM ON OCCASION OF HIS VISIT--INCLUDING CONSIDERABLE TIME SPENT WITH FAMILY OF PM CHIRAC. I HAD OCCASION AT DINNER ON SEPTEMBER 24TH DISCUSS DADDAM VISIT WITH NEWLY ARRIVED FRENCH DCM JEAN BERNARD OUVRIEU (REPLACING SAILLARD) WHO PLAYED ACTIVE ROLE AT QUAI IN SETTING UP VISIT. OUVRIEU SAID THAT QUAI VERY EARLY ON DECIDED TO STRESS PERSONNAL ELEMENT IN SADDAM VISIT SINCE THERE WOULD BE FEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS. THIS, HE SAID, TURNED OUT TO BE CASE AND SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS WERE EVEN MORE DISAPPOINTING THAN QUAI HAD HOPED FOR.
SAID IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO KEEP SADDAM'S MIND FULLY OCCUPIED BUT THAT TONE AND WARMTH ACHIEVED WAS EXACTLY WHAT GOF INTENDED.
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2. WISH TO REMIND ADDRESSEES' OF REF A'S CAUTIONARY NOTE ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT AMBASSADOR CERLES MAY TEND TO READ MORE THAN IS JUSTIFIED OF HIS OWN WELL KNOWN PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO COMMON EUROPEAN APPROACH TO MIDDLE EAST INTO HIS GOVERMENT'S ACTUAL POLICY TOWARDS COUNTRIES LIKE IRAQ. CONSENSUS OF COMMON MARKET AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES IN BAGHDAD IS THAT FRANCE IS OUT FOR MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE FOR FRANCE AND IF THAT UNDERCUTS A COMMON MARKET APPROACH TO IRAQ, THAT IS JUST TOO BAD FOR THE COMMON MARKET.

3. COMMENT: PERHAPS OTHER GOVERMENTS WOULD DO WELL TO TAKE A LEAF FROM THE FRENCH APPROACH TO IRAQ. THE GOI APPEARS, FOR INSTANCE, WILLING TO PLAY DOWN SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES WITH THE FRENCH ON POLICY TOWARDS ISRAEL IN ORDER TO ENJOY A RE-LATIONSHIP WHICH IS WARM, PERSONALIZED, ATTENTIVE AND RESPECTFUL. KILLOUGH

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